



COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Lightner Offers Budget Proposal

Plan ends brownouts, restores lifeguard training and maintains library and rec center hours

SAN DIEGO – Recognizing the importance of public safety and neighborhood services, Councilmember Lightner has announced a proposal that would end fire station brownouts effective July 1 and improve lifeguard training and staffing while keeping our libraries and recreation centers open at their current levels.

“We do not have to choose between public safety and our libraries and recreation centers,” said Lightner. “They are all so important to our quality of life, and we as a City must recognize that. My proposal restores all these services while still balancing the budget.”

She added, **“A key component of public safety is ensuring our lifeguards have proper staffing levels and training. I have been working closely with the Mayor’s office to ensure the FY2012 budget reflects this priority.”**

Lifeguards not only keep watch over the beaches, but they also are in charge of river rescues when rainstorms cause severe flooding as they did this winter and spring. Despite this fact, river-rescue training has been severely curtailed in recent years as has law enforcement training along with boat and vehicle training.

Lifeguards have been relegated to computer training, and every hour in front of the computer means one hour less devoted to patrolling the beaches. This is an inefficient use of staff time as 98 percent of all rescues are the result of lifeguard observations with only 2 percent of rescues coming from 911 calls.

Lack of adequate training also results in increased workplace and training accidents that ultimately cost taxpayers more money and further stretches the City’s already thin lifeguard staff.

Lightner’s budget would:

- End brownouts fully on July 1 (instead of a phased-in approach)
- Restore three lifeguard relief positions
- Restore lifeguard training
- Restore branch library hours to current levels
- Restore rec center hours to current levels
- Restore swim team and water polo programs
- Restore after-school programs

- Restore pool operating hours
- Restore the Police Department's Vehicle Abatement Unit

To pay for these priorities, Lightner would:

- Reduce training, travel and overtime for non-public safety employees
- Reduce IT discretionary funding by 20 percent
- Adjust long-term disability reserve amounts and terminal leave
- Reduce workers' compensation funding
- Eliminate cell phones for non-public safety employees
- Use land sale revenue for the Convention Center Phase II debt service
- Incorporate adjusted FY2012 revenue estimates

Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.

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**Restoring Public Safety & Preserving Neighborhood Services
in the FY12 Budget
Councilmember Sherri S. Lightner**

Alternative Savings Measures - Ongoing	Total Resources
Adjust FY 2012 revenue estimates	\$3,000,000
Use land sale revenue for Convention Center Phase II debt service costs	\$2,500,000
Eliminate cell phones for non-public safety depts.	\$400,000
Reduce workers' compensation funding	\$400,000
Adjust Terminal Leave	\$400,000
Adjust Long Term Disability Reserve amounts	\$1,600,000
Reduce overtime for non-public safety departments	\$1,250,000
Reduce training and travel for non-public safety departments	\$500,000
Reduce IT discretionary funding by 20%	\$500,000
Publishing Services managed competition savings (General Fund portion)	\$200,000
Sub-Total Ongoing Alternative Savings Measures	\$10,750,000

Alternative Savings Measures - One-Time	Total Resources
RDA Dept. Repayment (General Fund portion)	\$800,000
Implement Recovery Auditing	\$500,000
Collect Delinquent Parking Citations	\$1,500,000
Collect Retroactive Fire High-Rise Inspection Fees	\$1,000,000
Sub-Total One-Time Alternative Savings Measures	\$3,800,000
Total Alternative Savings Measures	\$14,550,000

Service Restorations	Total Amount Needed to Restore
Full restoration of brownouts on July 1, 2011	\$2,800,000
Restoration of three lifeguard relief positions	\$300,000
Restoration of lifeguard training	\$240,000
Full restoration of branch library hours to current levels	\$7,400,000
Restoration of recreation center hours	\$2,912,899
Restoration of swim team and water polo programs	\$223,331
Restoration of after school programs	\$137,597
Restoration of pool operating hours	\$107,875
Restoration of Police Department Vehicle Abatement Unit*	\$329,152
Total Service Restorations Identified	\$14,450,854

*Total amount needed to restore will be reduced by amount that is cost recoverable.